

Old Masonic Hall
Athens, Ala.
Limestone Co.

HABS No. 16-305.
HABS
ALA
42-ATH
-3-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer
Ala. Polytechnic Inst., Auburn, Ala.

Old Masonic Hall
Athens, Limestone County, Alabama.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Masonic Hall was built in the unusual combination of the Greek and the Gothic styles. It was measured and recorded for this Survey because of its dilapidated condition and because of the alteration of the Masonic rooms. The Gothic sunken arches line only two façades of the building. The central arch in each façade is wider than the other arches. The crown of the central arch has been cut off so that the point would not reach the classic cornice. The interior trim and fireplace mantels have been gouged in a firm manner.

Source of Material:

E. Walter Burkhardt, District Administrator, HABS.
Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama.

(Revised at HABS Headquarters,
Feb. 12, 1936 - H.C.F.)
(~~Original paper in field notebook~~).

Project #16-305
OLD MASONIC HALL
Athens, Alabama

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HISTORICAL DATA:

Built about 1826.
No record of the architect.

Ownership:

The Masonic Lodge built and occupied this building until 1912.

Earl Stover bought this building from the Masons in 1912. He seems to have sold it in 1915.

William T. Gresham bought this building about 1915.

Present Owner: William T. Gresham.

The original book containing the minutes of the meetings of the Masonic Lodge from 1829 to 1851, is in the possession of Captain Jack Gray, Athens, Ala. Masonic Records of the Royal Arch Chapter #9 and all regalia, were left in the Old Masonic Hall from 1851 to 1912; at which time they were taken out and found to be in a perfect state of preservation.

Source of Material:

Eugene Knight of the measuring force.
Captain Jack Gray, Athens, Alabama.
William T. Gresham, Athens, Alabama.

Revised 1936, H.C.F.